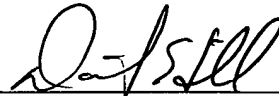


REMARKS

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for finding allowable subject matter in pending Claims 7, 8, and 10-20. To expedite the prosecution of the allowable claims, Applicants have canceled Claims 6, 7, 9, 16 and 20 and amended Claims 1 and 8. The
5 Examiner objected to Claims 7 and 8 as being dependant upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Thus, Applicants have incorporated the limitations of Claim 7 into independent Claim 1 and amended Claim 8 to depend from amended Claim 1. Importantly, Applicants have not canceled Claims 6, 7, 9, 16, and 20 for any substantial reason related to patentability as discussed by the Supreme
10 Court in *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., Ltd.*, 122 S. Ct. 1831 (2002), but rather for the sole purpose of expediting prosecution of the allowable claims. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to prosecute any or all of the canceled claims in one or more continuation applications.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention
15 represents a patentable contribution to the art and that Claims 1-5, 8, 10-15, and 17-19 are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is accordingly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: February 8, 2005

David M. Hill
Reg. No. 46,170
Ward & Olivo
708 Third Avenue.
New York, New York 10017
212-697-6262